

Natural Resources Conservation Service Drought Help

California

Improve Irrigation

Reduce Evaporation

Restore Wetlands

Restore Grasslands

Choose Drought Resistant Plants

Improve Water Quality

Create Buffers

Build Water Storage

Retain Soil Moisture

Restore Rangeland

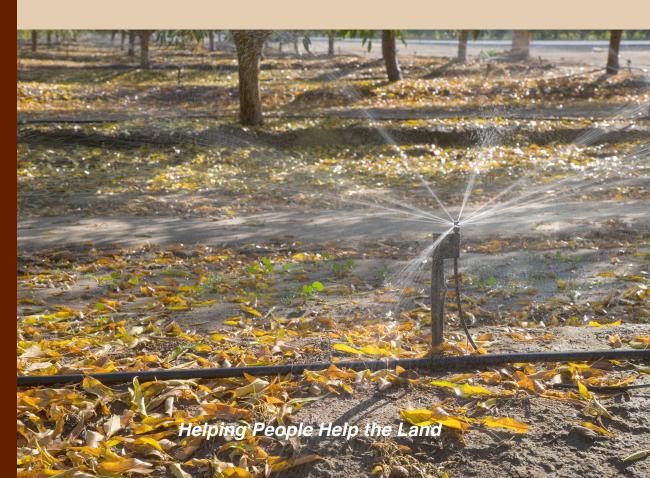
Reduce Runoff

Reduce Wildfire Threat Dalthough its features vary from region to region. Droughts in California typically occur gradually over several years. California's extensive water supply system can mitigate the effects of short-term dry periods, however California's dependence on water for agriculture, industry, and recreation makes drought planning an economic necessity.

When a drought occurs the impacts are felt first by those most reliant on annual rainfall – farmers and ranchers. With more than 10 million acres of cropland and 30 million acres of rangeland, even a mild drought can have widespread effects. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) offers free technical and financial assistance to farmers and ranchers, as well as forest owners and communities, to help them conserve their natural resources.

How Can NRCS Help You?

NRCS can help you with your water, land or crop management concerns through the development of a conservation plan. Conservation plans can include drought planning and are free. Being prepared for a drought and creating a plan will allow you to continue your operation even in the most severe conditions.



Agriculture & Drought Resources For Conserving Water



Water Conservation Information Available From USDA-NRCS

- Contact California NRCS Find a Service Center Near You http://www.ca.nrcs.usda.gov/contact/
- Information for Farmers, Ranchers and Other Agriculture Producers http://www.ca.nrcs.usda.gov/farmers.html
- Defending Against Drought Prepare Your Farm or Ranch Before Drought Strikes http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/feature/drought/index. html
- Save Water with Efficient Systems and Healthy Plants
 http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/feature/backyard/watercon.html
- Irrigation: When and How Much? Meet Crop Requirements While Conserving Water ftp://ftp-fc.sc.egov.usda.gov/CA/news/Publications/ conservation/irrigation.pdf
- Water Efficient Landscaping ftp://ftp-fc.sc.egov.usda.gov/CA/news/Publications/conservation/landscaping.pdf
- Estimating Soil Moisture by Feel and Appearance http://www.mt.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/ecs/agronomy/soilmoisture/index.html
- en Español también http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/feature/espanol/pubs/ calculo.pdf

Water Conservation Information Available From Other Sources

- ATTRA National Sustainable Agriculture Information Service - Water Quality, Conservation, Drought and Irrigation http://www.attra.org/water_quality.html
- California Department of Water Resources - Drought Tips - A Series of 17 Tip Sheets on Conserving Agriculture Water http://www.owue.water.ca.gov/drlinks/drlinks.cfm
- University of California Davis Drought Management - Crop Irrigation Strategies and Irrigation Scheduling - Crop Deficit Strategies http://ucmanagedrought.ucdavis.edu/index.cfm
- California Irrigation Management Information System CIMIS www.cimis.water.ca.gov
- University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources - Cooperative Extension http://ucanr.org
- University of California Center for Water Resources www.waterresources.ucr.edu
- University of California Cooperative Extension - Farm Water Quality Planning Program http://www.fwqp.ucanr.org/
- University of California at Davis California Rangelands Research and Information Center http://californiarangeland.ucdavis.edu/

On the Web at www.ca.nrcs.usda.gov

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